

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the following remarks. Claims 1-15 are currently pending in this application, of which claims 1 and 8 are independent. In the Office Action dated March 31, 2009, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5-10, and 12-15 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,108,422 ("Newby") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,035,038 ("Campinos"). The Examiner objected to dependent claims 4 and 11 for reciting a claim term that lacks antecedent basis but indicated that these claims would be allowable if they were rewritten to overcome this objection and into independent forms.

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for recognizing the allowability of dependent claims 4 and 11. In order to facilitate the expedited allowance of this application, Applicants hereby amend independent claims 1 and 8 to include the recitations of allowable dependent claims 4 and 11 respectively. Claims 4 and 8 have been canceled accordingly without prejudice or disclaimer.

To address the Examiner's objection to a lack of antecedent basis for "said single removable user unit" in the portion of claim 4 now incorporated into independent claim 1, Applicants have amended the preamble of independent claim 1 to recite a single removable user unit." With regard to the Examiner's similar objection to a lack of antecedent basis for "the single removable user unit" in the portion of claim 11 now incorporated into independent claim 8, Applicants submit that the Examiner's objection was made in error as the preamble of claim 8 already recite "a single removable user unit."

Without specifically addressing the merits of the Examiner's rejections of claims 1-3, 5-10, and 12-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and to facilitate the expedited allowance of the pending claims, Applicants submit that amended independent claims 1 and 8 are allowable at least because they include recitations of dependent claims 4 and 11 that were deemed allowable. Claims 2, 3, 5-7, 9, 10, and 12-15 each depend from one of independent claims 1 and 8 and are, therefore, also allowable at least because of their dependency on an allowable base claim.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowable and respectfully request the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: August 7, 2009

By: 
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